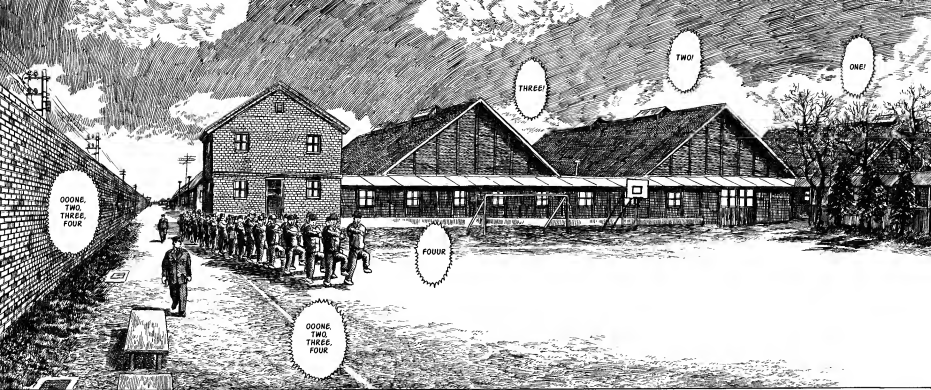


A JOYOUS NEW YEAR







-NO NICOTINE IS  
PERMITTED DURING THE BREAK  
IN THE PRISON YARD-

-THE LIGHT INSIDE THE  
WALLS IS THE SAME LIGHT AS  
ON THE WALL'S OTHER SIDE-









I LIKE TO GATHER  
WILD PLANTS AND  
MUSHROOMS UP IN  
THE MOUNTAINS.  
COOK 'EM 'N EAT  
'EM.



SINCE I ALWAYS  
CARRY SOME  
CAMPING GEAR  
I CAN USE IT  
SOON'S I'M  
OUTTA HERE

I'VE GOT  
A JEEP



I WENT TO  
COLLECT SOME  
MONEY THIS GUY  
OWED AND HE  
PULLED AN AXE ON  
ME, I DON'T HAVE  
NO CHOICE BUT TO  
SUBDUCE 'IM.

BWA HA  
HA HA!



MR. OUCHI, WEREN'T YOU  
ARRESTED AT HOME IN BEO  
AFTER KILLING SOMEONE  
WITH A GUN?



HELL, NO  
BWA HA  
HA!



Y'EVER PRAY  
FOR HIS SOUL?



IF I ONLY  
GET SEVEN  
YEARS FOR  
KILLING A  
DUDE THAT'S  
CHEAP BWA  
HA HA!



CAN'T THINK  
TWICE ABOUT  
GETTIN' RIDOOF  
THAT KINDA  
VERMIN.

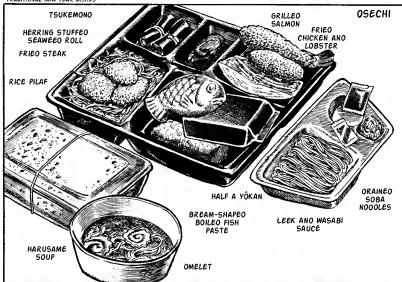


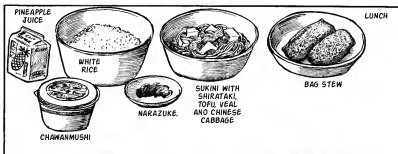
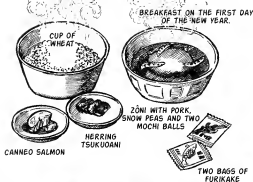
WAY TO GO!  
YOU REALLY  
BELIEVE IN  
YOURSELF!

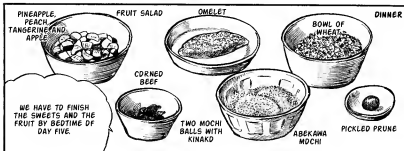
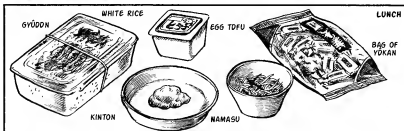
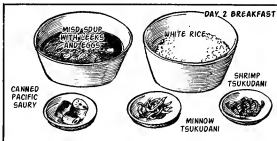
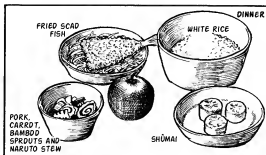


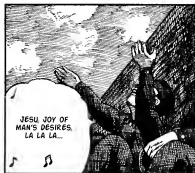
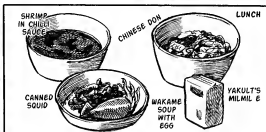
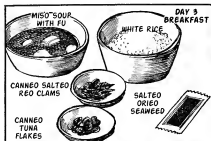


\*TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR DISHES



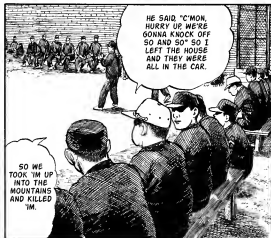
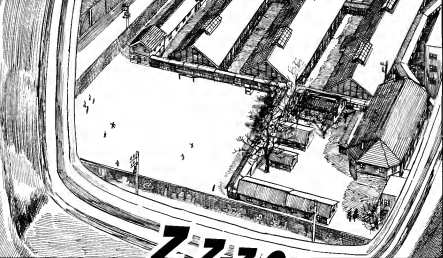












SO WE  
TOOK 'IM UP  
INTO THE  
MOUNTAINS  
AND KILLED  
'IM.



I WAS  
GIVING THE  
KID SOME  
MILK WHEN  
A FRIEND  
OF MINE  
CALLED.



WELL, HIS EYES WERE PLEADING WITH US TO GET IT OVER AND DONE WITH.

DO THEY BAWL THEIR HEADS OFF WHEN YOU'RE GONNA KILL 'EM?



IF HE WAS STUCK IN A DEAD END HE PROBABLY WANTED TO DIE SOON ANYHOW.

THIS ODOE WAS UP TO HIS EARS IN DEBT WITH THE YAKUZA.

IF YOU'RE GONNA LIVE LIKE THAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO GET KNOCKED OFF.



SHEET, WHAT AN ASSHOLE!

THEN ONE OF OUR GANG BECAME A MEMBER OF SOME SECT AND TURNED HIMSELF IN TO THE COPS...

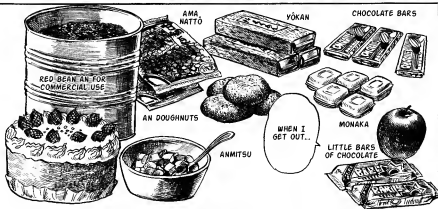


THEY SAY IT'S SNOWED IN SAPPORO

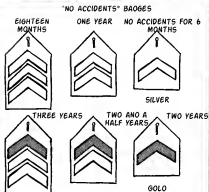
AHH, NEW YEAR'S COMING.



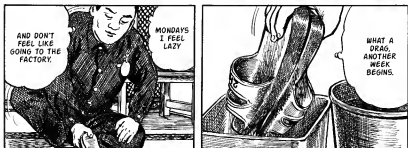
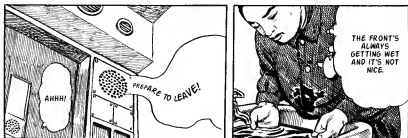
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HUG MY SON.













A WINTER'S DAY









(\*) INSPECTION ROOM









IT'S NOT MUCH BUT YOU  
CAN TELL THE DAYS ARE  
GETTING LONGER



LIKE A LEAF SWEEPED ALONG BY THE  
CURRENT...  
IF YOU OBEY ORDERS WITHOUT  
THINKING TIME JUST FLIES BY.



... AH, I HOPE  
SPRING IS HERE  
SOON.



WHAT?





(\*) OCCUPIED

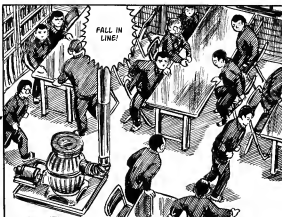


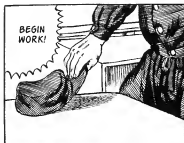






\* TODAY'S WASH: UNDERPANTS TEE-SHIRTS





BEGIN  
WORK!

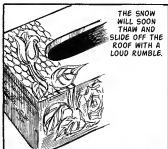


NUMBERS!

ATTENTION!



THROUGH  
THE ROOF  
WINDOWS THE  
SUNLIGHT...



THE SNOW  
WILL SOON  
THAW AND  
SLIDE OFF THE  
ROOF WITH A  
LOUD RUMBLE.



THE DIVINE  
LIGHT ON THE  
CHISEL...



...WILL SOON  
STREAM IN AND  
SUMMER WILL BE  
HERE.



AH...  
FOOD'S  
HERE  
ALREADY.



CREAK

CREAK

CREAK



MMM...  
CURRY  
TODAY!

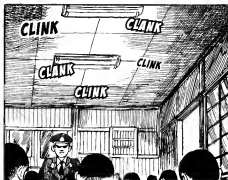


OH...NOW I'M  
ACTUALLY EATING...  
IT'S EXACTLY AS  
I IMAGINED IT THIS  
MORNING!





EVERYONE  
EATS QUICKLY  
ESPECIALLY  
WHEN THERE'S  
CURRY SO  
THEY'VE  
FINISHED IN  
JUST FIVE  
MINUTES.



I'LL MISS THE  
SOUND OF THE  
BOWLS...



THE SOUND OF  
THE SPOONS  
SCRAPING  
THE PLASTIC  
BOWLS...



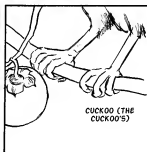
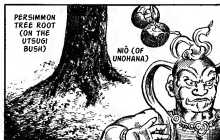


IT'S WEIRD  
BECAUSE  
THEY WON'T  
EVEN NOTICE  
WHEN THEY'RE  
CLEANED...

THE TABLES ARE  
ALL DIRTY WITH  
SPILLED FOOD  
BUT IT DOESN'T  
BOTHER ANYONE.



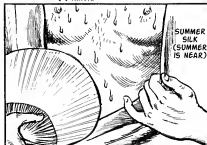
WHEN I CLOSE  
MY EYES THE  
NOISE SEEMS  
LOUDER!

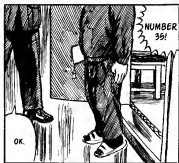


\*HERE THRU PAGE 114 NANAMI PLAYS ON WORD SOUNDS FROM THE NURSERY SONG "NATSU MA KIKU" (SUMMER HAS COME) IN PARENTHESES.



(\*) NINJA.









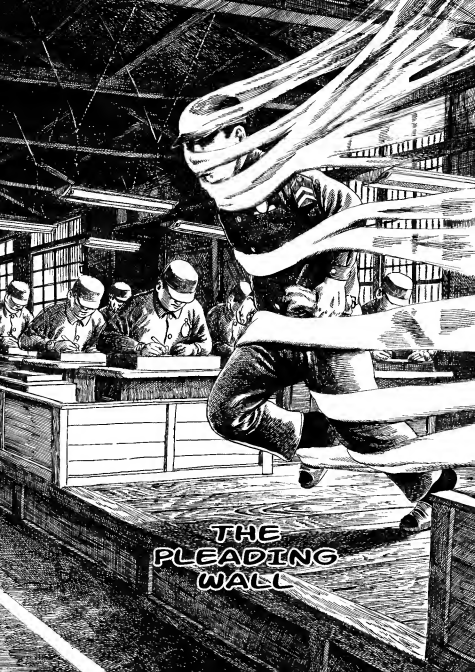
I'VE ONLY GOT  
SIX YEARS AND  
TWO MONTHS  
TO GO...



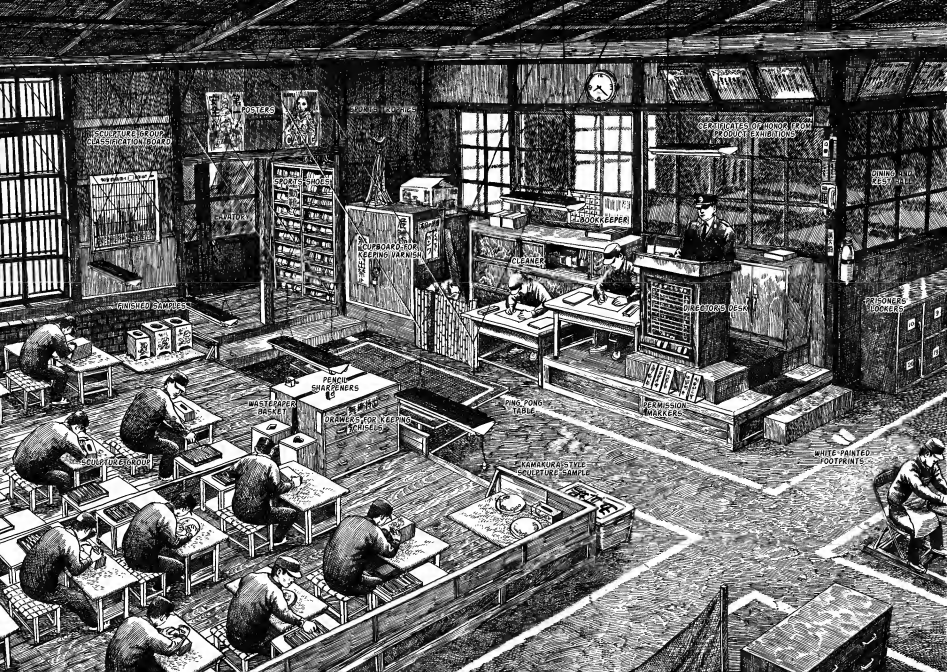
AM!

AFTER  
ALL TIME  
FLIES.





THE  
PLEADING  
WALL



SCULPTURE GROUP  
CLASSIFICATION BOARD



POSTERS



SPORTS

POSTERS

ELEVATOR



SPORTS SHOES

CUPBOARD FOR  
KEEPING VARNISH



CLEANER

LIBRARY BOOKKEEPER

CERTIFICATES OF HONOR FROM  
PRODUCT EXHIBITIONS

DINING AND  
REST HALL

FINISHED SAMPLES



PENCIL  
SHARPENERS

WASTEPAPER  
BASKET

DRAWINGS FOR KEEPING  
ARCHIVES

PING PONG  
TABLE

PERMISSION  
MARKERS

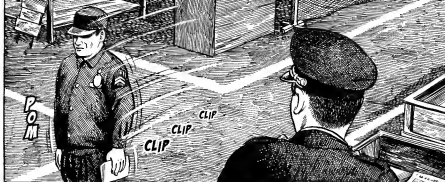
PRISONERS  
LOCKERS

WHITE-PAINTED  
FOOTPRINTS

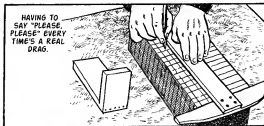
KAMAKURA STYLE  
SCULPTURE SAMPLE





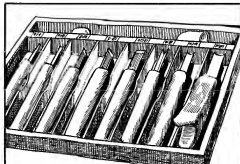


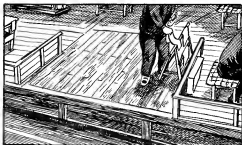




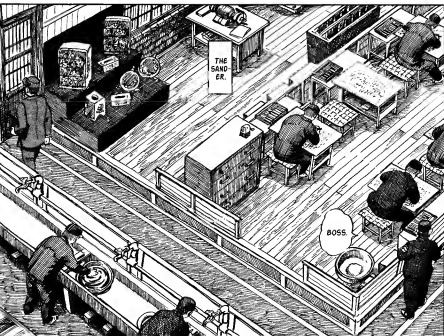




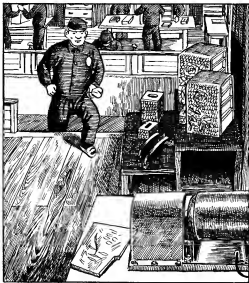
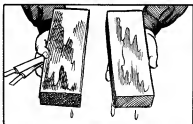
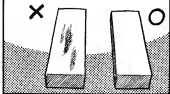


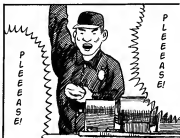


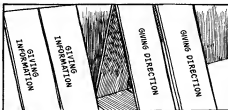




THE WHOLE SURFACE MUST BE USED SO IT DOESN'T WEAR IN JUST ONE PLACE.











I NEED  
TOOLS  
TO WORK  
WITH!

I'M  
FROM THE  
PAINTERS  
GROUP!



SCULPTORS'  
GROUP ONE!



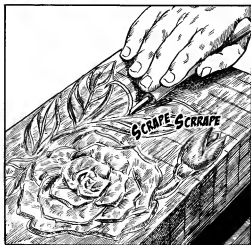
YEH,  
OKAY.

HERE, JUST  
GIVE IT A  
FLICK OF  
YOUR WRIST.



I CAN'T STAND  
HAVING TO DO  
THINGS LIKE SAY  
"PLEASE" ALL  
THE TIME.

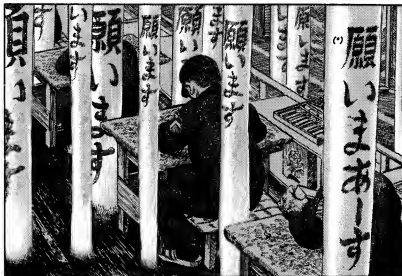
...EACH  
AND  
EVERY  
TIME...  
WHAT A  
PAIN...

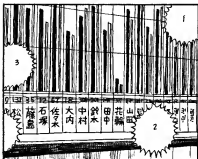


SCRAPE-SCRAPE



LIKE  
THIS...?







...IT OCCURS TO  
ME IT'LL JUST  
SLIP OUT...



YOU'LL  
BE FOUND  
OUT RIGHT  
AWAY.

DON'T YOU  
FEEL THAT  
YOU'LL GO  
ON SAYING  
"PLEASE"  
EVEN WHEN  
YOU GET  
OUTTA THIS  
JOINT?



COFFEE  
PLEEEASE!

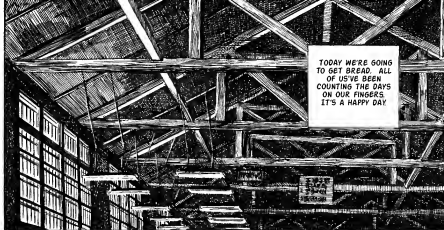
P  
L  
E  
E  
A  
S  
E!

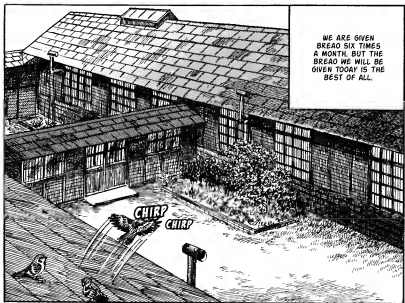
P  
L  
E  
E  
A  
S  
E!

WILL  
THAT  
REALLY  
HAPPEN?

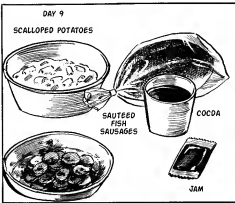
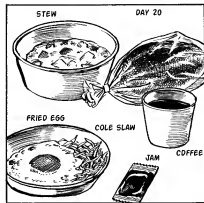
# THE FOOD IS GOING TO BANKRUPT JAPAN







朝	③ミソ汁	昼	夕
7月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
2月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
3月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
4月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
5月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
6月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
7月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
8月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
9月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
10月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
11月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
12月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
13月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
14月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
15月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
16月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
17月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
18月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
19月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
20月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
21月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
22月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
23月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
24月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
25月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
26月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
27月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
28月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
29月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐
30月	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐	味噌汁(2) 豆腐





DAY 27

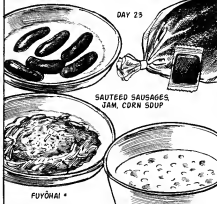
STEWED BEANS,  
SALAD, MILK



CHEESE  
JAM

DAY 23

SAUTEED SAUSAGES,  
JAM, CORN SOUP



FUYOHAI \*

\*TYPE OF OMLETTE



IT'S  
DINNER  
TIME!



HAAAA! WORK!  
FALL IN LINE!



SPLOOSH  
SPLOOSH



TO THE  
DINING  
HALL IN  
ORDER.



AAAAH...



SCCRAPE  
SCCRAPE

JAPANESE FAIRIES, BORN  
OF THE SWEET SMELL  
OF FRUIT, FLIT OVER THE  
MARGARINE, SHINY WITH  
OIL, AND THE RED BEANS

THE SWEET SMELL  
OF FRUIT SALAD FILLS  
THE ENTIRE HALL

THIS IS DAY 16, IT'S  
WHEN WE GET BREAD  
AND MARGARINE AND  
IT'S THE BEST OF THE  
SIX DAYS IN WHICH  
WE GET BREAD. I WAS  
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT  
VERY MUCH.





SWEET  
SWEET RED  
BEANS.



FRUIT SALAD  
WITH DICED  
APPLE.



IT'S DELICIOUS

SLOBBER



I NEVER  
HAD  
ANYTHING  
THIS GOOD  
BEFORE.

WHEN I EAT  
THINGS THAT  
ARE THIS  
GOOD...



BETTER  
THAT THE  
FRESH  
FRITTERS I  
ATE WHEN  
I'D GET  
HOME FROM  
SCHOOL..

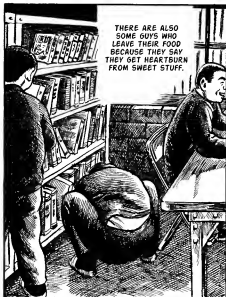


BETTER THAN THE  
FIRST EARLY FIG I ATE  
AS A CHILD...

IT WAS A HUNDRED OR A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER. THERE ARE NO WORDS FOR IT, NOT EVEN HEROINE CAN COMPARE...



SOMEONE SAYS THAT IF YOU STIR THE MARGARINE INTO THE BEANS THEY TASTE EVEN BETTER.



THERE ARE ALSO SOME GUYS WHO LEAVE THEIR FOOD BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY GET HEARTBURN FROM SWEET STUFF.



THE MILK IS GOOD TOO, IT'S LIKE YOUR BRAIN TURNS WHITE ... BUT, HOW CAN SUCH HUMBLE FARE BE SO RICH?





AND... THERE ARE GUYS  
WHO WALK ON EGGSHELLS  
AS THOUGH THEY WERE  
ROBBING DIAMONOS IN A  
JEWELRY STORE. THAT  
STUFF MIXED WITH THE  
BEANS AND MARGARINE...

OUTSIDE HIS WIFE AND SON ARE WAITING  
FOR HIM AND EACH DAY FEELS LIKE A  
THOUSAND AUTUMNS... IF HE'S CAUGHT  
THEY'LL CANCEL HIS PAROLE... HE'LL END  
UP WITH BIG PROBLEMS...



BUT YOU  
SEE... EVEN  
THOUGH HE'S  
AN ADULT,  
HE CAN'T  
GIVE UP  
THAT TASTE.





NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. I THINK THESE GUYS ARE GOING TO END UP MUSHY-BRAINED AND USELESS FROM FILLING THEIR GUTS EVERY DAY.



IT'S DELICIOUS!

YUM!



...I THINK I'LL ADD SOME SOY SAUCE TO DINNER.



THE WAY THIS TASTES I WOULDN'T CARE IF WE NEVER HAD ANYTHING ELSE!

IT'S SIMPLY DELICIOUS. SOY SAUCE GOES VERY WELL WITH A MIXTURE OF 3 PARTS WHEAT TO 7 OF RICE...



HEH, HEH, HEH, GREAT! IF THEY KEEP ON LIKE THIS THE FOOD IS GOING TO BANKRUPT JAPAN.

ON THE OUTSIDE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY GOOD THINGS BUT THE TONGUES OF FOOLS, WHO LONG TO BE GOURMETS, END UP BY LOSING THEIR SENSE OF TASTE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR EVER MORE DELICATE FOODS...

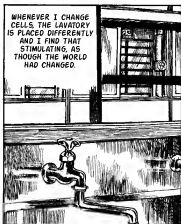
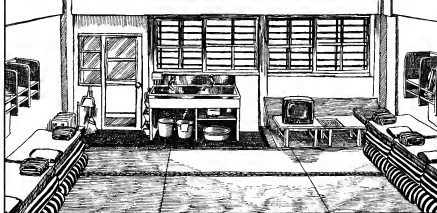


EVERY SIX MONTHS  
ALL INMATES IN ALL  
THE BUILDINGS ARE  
TRANSFERRED FROM  
THEIR CELLS.

## FLASHES FROM THE PEN

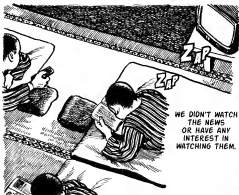
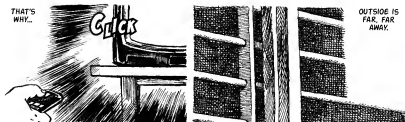
WHEN WE LEFT FOR THE  
FACTORY WE'D LEAVE OUR  
PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND  
BOOKS WRAPPED IN A BLANKET  
NEXT TO THE FUTON AND THEY'D  
BE IN THE NEW CELL WHEN WE  
RETURNED THAT EVENING.

WE EXCHANGED CELLS WITH  
THOSE ACROSS THE HALL.



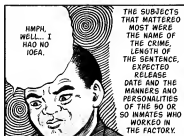


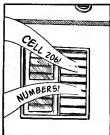




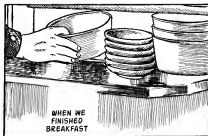
\*DEC 17 '96 - APRIL 22 '97

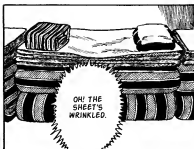
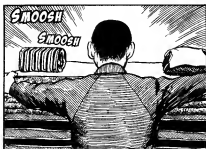




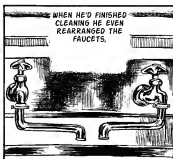
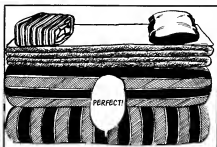








IF HIS PAJAMAS WERE FOLDED SQUARELY, THEY PRAISED HIM.



TEA THERMOS.  
WHEN THEY RETURN AT  
4 PM. IT'S FULL.

THEY HAVE  
BATHS EVERY  
COUPLE OF DAYS.  
THEY WRAP  
THE SHAMPOO  
IN A TOWEL  
AND CARRY IT  
IN THEIR LEFT  
HAND WHEN THEY  
LEAVE THE CELL.

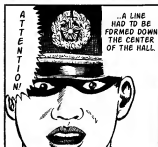
BAG WITH PERSONAL  
BELONGINGS.  
IT CONTAINS THE EMPTY  
TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE,  
BALLPOINT PEN,  
AUTHORIZED BOOKS, ETC.  
AND THEY TAKE IT WITH  
THEM TO THE FACTORY  
TO TURN IT IN.



WHEN THE GUYS ON THE  
FLOOR ABOVE FORMED IN THE  
HALL AND STARTED TO PACE  
IT SOUNDED LIKE THE ROAR  
OF NIKKO'S WEEPING DRAGON\*.

\* FEATURE OF THE TOSHIMU-SU  
TEMPLES IN THE CITY OF NIKKO, JAPAN





FOR A SECOND YOU  
COULD SEE THE FAR-OFF  
MOUNTAINS THROUGH  
THE WINDOWS. JUST FOR  
AN INSTANT.



THE ONLY  
PLACE WE  
DIDN'T HAVE  
TO KEEP  
PACE WAS  
THE STAIRS.

THEY TURNED WHITE WHEN  
WINTER WAS NEAR AND BLUE  
WHEN SUMMER APPROACHED.  
SO YOU COULD TELL WHEN  
THERE'D SOON BE A CHANGE  
OF SEASON.





THEY TAKE YOU AWAY  
IMMEDIATELY FOR  
INTERROGATION.



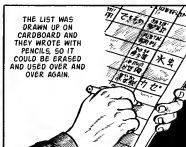
IF YOU  
ANSWER  
LIKE THAT...

OH,  
YEAH,  
YEAH.



IN THESE  
CASES...  
IF YOU  
ACT  
HARD-  
BOILED...

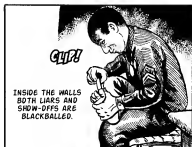












CLIP!  
INSIDE THE WALLS  
BOTH LIARS AND  
SHOW-OFFS ARE  
BLACKBALLED.



HE USED TO  
BOAST ABOUT HIS  
MERCEDES BENZ,  
HIS LUXURY CONDO,  
ETC., BUT NOW  
EVERYONE KNOWS  
IT WAS A BIG LIE..

AHA...  
THAT'S  
THE GUY



YEAH, IF I  
TELL HIM  
HE'S NICE  
TO ME

WHAT? YOU  
TALK OF THESE  
THINGS TO THE  
WARDEN?



I'VE  
TOLD THE  
WARDEN  
ABOUT  
THIS.



WHET HIS  
HEART.

...OH,  
HOW RIPE.

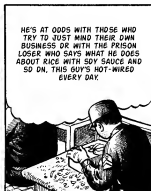


"HE'S NICE  
TO ME"...?

"HE'S  
NICE TO  
ME"...?



THE BATHS WERE IN  
AN OLD BRICK BUILDING  
WHICH MADE US BELIEVE  
IT HAD A LONG HISTORY.



HE'S AT ODDS WITH THOSE WHO  
TRY TO JUST MIND THEIR OWN  
BUSINESS OR WITH THE PRISON  
LOSER WHO SAYS WHAT HE DOES  
ABOUT RICE WITH SOY SAUCE AND  
SO ON, THIS GUY'S HOT-WIRED  
EVERY DAY.





THEY CHANGED IN THE INSPECTION ROOM FROM THEIR WORK CLOTHES TO THEIR CELL CLOTHES. TOOK UP THEIR SOAP AND MARCHED OFF TO THE BATHROOM.





THERE WERE  
RAZORS  
AVAILABLE  
FOR ALL THE  
INMATES.

THE GUARD IN CHARGE  
LOOKED AROUND CLOSELY  
TO SEE IF ANYONE HAD  
PUT HIS TOWEL OVER  
HIS HEAD LIKE A WOMAN:  
"HEY! NOT LIKE THAT!  
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?  
YOU, NOT LIKE THAT!"

OPERATING  
THE STEAM  
VALVE  
LEVER.

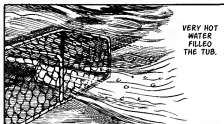
WE HAD 15 MINUTES TO  
BATHING THE LIGHT BULBS  
FLICKERED BEHIND THE  
COLORED PLASTIC SHADES  
WHICH CHANGED EVERY  
FIVE MINUTES SO WE'D  
KNOW HOW MUCH TIME  
WAS LEFT.

AND ASK FOR  
RAZOR  
WITH  
RIGHT  
HAND

CARRY  
TOWEL  
AND SOAP  
IN LEFT  
HAND

THOSE WHO  
HAD SHAVERS  
DIDN'T SHAVE  
IN THE BATH,  
SO THEY  
DIDN'T NEED  
TO HURRY!

THE  
AUTHOR,  
WHO HAS  
PUT A  
TOWEL OVER  
HIS HEAD  
WITHOUT  
MEANING TO



# MONEY SPELLS FREEDOM

PRISON-  
ISSUE  
UNDER-  
SHIRT L

PERSONAL  
UNDER-  
SHIRT

THE SHINING WHITE OF YOUR OWN  
UNDERSHIRT PEEPING FROM BENEATH  
THE INMATE'S GRAY CLOTHING MAKES  
YOUR NECK SHINE SO YOU LOOK LIKE  
A NICE BOY. THIS IS A KEEN POINT  
WITH SNAPPY DRESSERS.

PRISON-  
ISSUE  
SHORT-  
SLEEVED  
UNDERSHIRT  
(FREE)

PERSONAL  
CREWNECK  
UNDERSHIRT  
SIZE M  
¥ 660

PRISON-  
ISSUE  
BOXERS  
SIZE M  
(FREE)

PERSONAL  
STRIPED  
BOXERS  
SIZE M  
¥ 930

THEY'RE ALL  
WRINKLED  
AND ARE  
VERY BAGGY

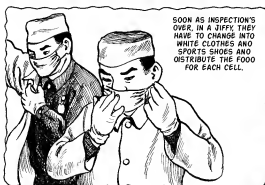
THEY  
HAVE LOTS  
OF FUZZ  
PRISON-  
ISSUE

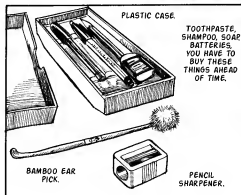
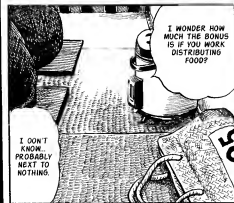
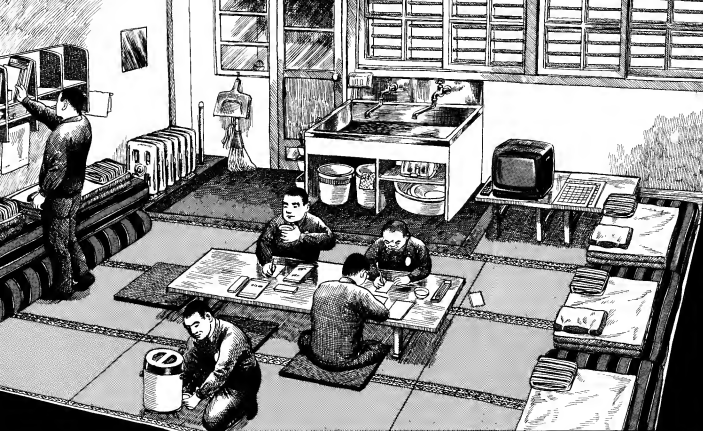
PERSONAL  
NAVY  
BLUE  
SOCKS  
¥ 480

THE  
PRISONERS  
CAN CHOSE  
BETWEEN  
BLACK AND  
NAVY BLUE  
SOCKS.  
NO WHITE  
OR OTHER  
COLORS  
ARE  
ALLOWED.  
NOR ARE  
PATTERNS.

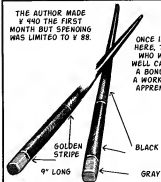
PRISON-  
ISSUE  
BLACK  
SOCKS  
(FREE)

THEY DON'T  
WEAR OR  
TEAR. THEY'RE  
STURDY AND  
RESISTANT





THE AUTHOR MADE  
¥ 440 THE FIRST  
MONTH BUT SPENDING  
WAS LIMITED TO ¥ 88.



ONCE INSIDE  
HERE, THOSE  
WHO WORK  
WELL CAN GET  
A BONUS AS  
A WORKMAN'S  
APPRENTICE.

MATSUSHITA  
TRAVEL KIT.

ES843-K

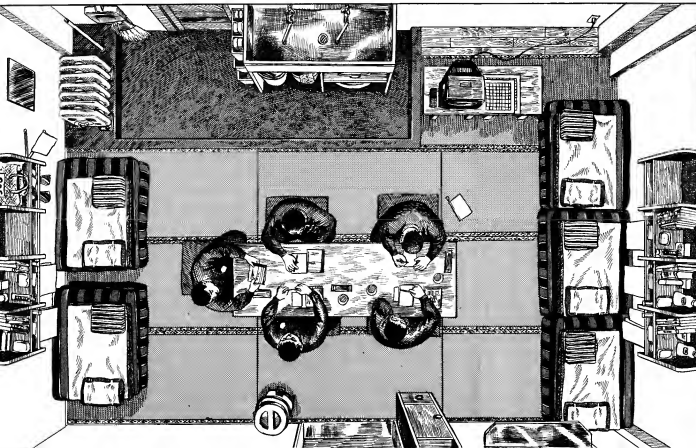
MADE IN  
THAI  
LAND



THOSE WHO HAD NO  
MONEY COULD SAVE  
THEIR EARNINGS  
FROM WORK EACH  
MONTH AND DO SOME  
SHOPPING TOO.



EVEN IF THEY  
HAVEN'T A PENNY  
TO THEIR NAME  
WHEN THEY  
ENTER, THEY CAN  
ASK FOR PRISON-  
ISSUE EVERYDAY  
ITEMS WHICH  
ARE FREE: THEY  
DON'T HAVE TO GO  
WITHOUT.





NOW, I'VE ONLY GOT Y 1500 TO SPEND SO I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL HOW I USE THEM...



'I'M GONNA MAKE A PILE!' I THOUGHT, AND THEN I WAS ARRESTED.



AFTER MANY YEARS OF SCRAMPLING I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO BUY A NEW DUMP TRUCK.



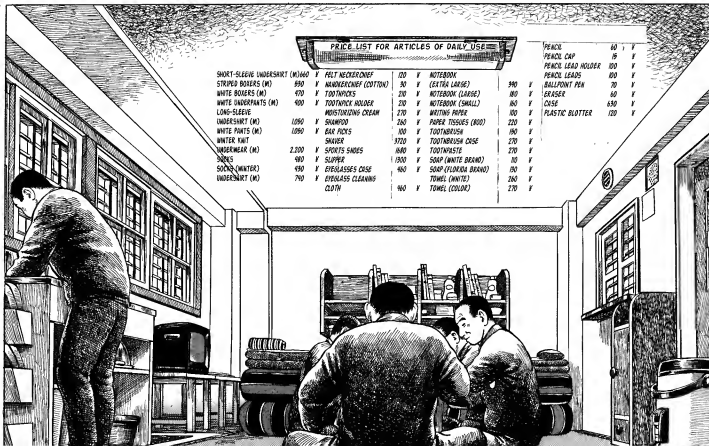
NOT LONG AGO I WROTE TO MY WIFE ASKING HER FOR SOME MONEY BUT SHE'S SO MEAN, SHE SAID NO.

WITH Y 88 I COULD ONLY JUST BUY SOME WRITING UTENSILS.

THERE ARE TEN LEVELS OF JOB POSITIONS, FROM UNSKILLED WORKER TO SPECIALIST. IF THEY WORKED HARD THEY WERE PROMOTED AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED INCREASED. WHEN THE AUTHOR REACHED THE 9TH LEVEL, HE EARNED Y 1000 AND WAS ALLOWED TO SPEND Y 203.

期別	等級	作業賞与金	使用限度額
	見習工	440 円	88 円
	"	723 "	145 "
2ヶ月	9等工	1,014 "	203 "
	"	1,191 "	238 "
2ヶ月	8等工	1,768 "	442 "
	"	1,779 "	445 "
2ヶ月	7等工	2,448 "	537 "
	"	2,444 "	611 "
4ヶ月	6等工	2,608 "	652 "
	"	2,625 "	656 "
	"	2,963 "	988 "
	"	3,244 "	1,081 "
4ヶ月	5等工	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,517 "	1,172 "
4ヶ月	4等工	4,723 "	1,574 "
	"	4,723 "	1,574 "

IT TOOK TWO MONTHS PER LEVEL TO GO FROM THE 9TH TO THE 7TH, FROM THE 6TH TO THE 4TH IT TOOK FOUR MONTHS EACH AND AFTER THAT IT TOOK 8 MONTHS. "IF YOU WORK FOR 20 OR 30 YEARS AND DON'T WASTE ANY MONEY, BY THE TIME YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOU CAN BUY A HOUSE OR TWO (MY HOME) RIGHT AWAY, THANK GOD" (ACCORDING TO MR. A).



# PRICE LIST FOR ARTICLES OF DAILY USE

SHORT-SLEEVE UNDERSHIRT (M)	600	Y	FELT NECKER/NECK	120	Y	NOTEBOOK	390	Y
STRIPED BOXERS (M)	890	Y	WANDER/NECK (COTTON)	30	Y	(EXTRA LARGE)	880	Y
WHITE BOXERS (M)	470	Y	TOOTHPICKS	210	Y	NOTEBOOK (LARGE)	80	Y
WHITE UNDERPANTS (M)	400	Y	TOOTHPICK HOLDER	210	Y	NOTEBOOK (SMALL)	80	Y
LONG-SLEEVE UNDERSHIRT (M)	1090	Y	MOISTURIZING CREAM	270	Y	WAITING PAPER	100	Y
WHITE TWEETS (M)	1090	Y	SKINWOOD	260	Y	PAPER TISSUES (800)	220	Y
WINTER TURT	2,200	Y	EAR PLUGS	150	Y	TOOTHBRUSH	160	Y
UNDERWEAR (M)	480	Y	SHAVE	9720	Y	TOOTHBRUSH CASE	170	Y
SOCKS (WINTER)	480	Y	SPORTS SHOES	680	Y	TOOTHPASTE	270	Y
UNDERSHIRT (M)	790	Y	SLEEPER	1900	Y	SOAP (WHITE BEARD)	80	Y
			EYEGLASSES CASE	480	Y	SOAP (FLORIDA BEANS)	150	Y
			EYEGLASS CLEANING CLOTH	960	Y	TOWELS (WHITE)	260	Y
						TOWELS (COLORED)	270	Y

PENCIL	60	Y
PENCIL CAP	15	Y
PENCIL LEAD HOLDER	100	Y
PENCIL LEADS	70	Y
ERASER	60	Y
CASE	630	Y
PLASTIC BLOTTER	120	Y









THERE'S A LIGHTNESS IN THIS JOINT YOU NEVER FEEL OUTSIDE OF HERE.

IT'S GREAT, THE EATS'RE FREE.

RENT, GAS, WATER, ELECTRICITY BILLS AND SO ON. WE'RE TOTALLY FREE FROM ALL THOSE PAYMENTS WHICH INVARIABLY PILE UP EVERY MONTH.



BUT... IT'S JUST THAT HERE YOU'RE FREE FROM THINGS.



LAST TIME I GOT HOME I FOUND THE PAYMENT NOTICE FROM THE NATIONAL PENSION INSURANCE...

WHAT?



OOO! I FINALLY PAID IT. IT'S AN IRRITATION BUT AT LEAST NOW IT'S OVER AND OOME WITH.

銀行  
(\*)

THE OVERDUE NOTICE FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

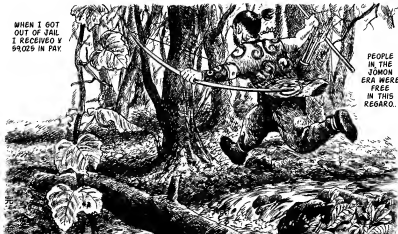
(\*)THE SIGN SHOWS THE END OF THE WORD "BANK"



AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THESE COLLECTION AGENCIES. THE AUTHOR HAS ALREADY BEEN HOUNDEED THREE TIMES BY THESE UNPLEASANT ENTITIES.

SHIT... WHAT KIND OF ABUSE OF POOR PEOPLE IS THIS ANYHOW?...

WH. WHAT? I JUST SENT A TRANSFER!



WHEN I GOT OUT OF JAIL I RECEIVED ¥ 99,029 IN PAY.

PEOPLE IN THE JOMON ERA WERE FREE IN THIS REGARD.

THE INMATES' CLOTHING  
IS DARK GRAY.  
THERE'S ONE CHEST POCKET.  
INSIDE IT ARE A PAPER  
TISSUE AND A CLOTH  
HANDKERCHIEF.

THE PLASTIC TAG HANGS FROM A  
BUTTON ON A RUBBERBAND



FIRST  
GRADE  
WHITE



SECOND  
GRADE  
BLUE



THIRD GRADE  
YELLOW



FOURTH  
GRADE  
RED

# DAYS OFF FROM WORK

THE LABEL  
IS SEWN ON  
BADLY. THE  
NAME ON THE  
INSIDE IS  
GRIMY FROM  
ONLY SCALP.



THE "NO  
ACCIDENTS"  
BADGE IS  
BUTTONED ON



WASH TAG ATTACHED WITH  
A PIECE OF THREAD.  
FACTORY'S AND INMATE'S  
NUMBERS. PANTS ARE KEPT UP  
TIED WITH STRING.

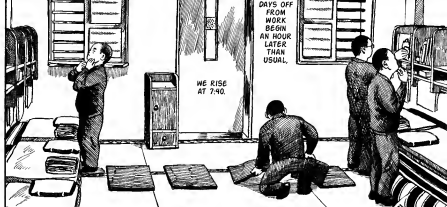


THE PANTS ONLY HAVE ONE  
BACK POCKET.



RUBBER SLIPPERS,  
GRAYISH BLUE COLOR, WITH  
NUMBER.







DIDN'T YOU  
HEAR THE  
PREPARE  
FOR  
INSPECTION  
CALL?



NU...  
NUMBER  
222

HA...  
HANA-  
MA.

WHEN THE  
GUARDS  
CALL US TO  
ATTENTION WE  
SALUTE AND  
TELL THEM OUR  
NUMBER AND  
NAME.



YOU HAVEN'T  
FORGOTTEN THAT  
WHEN YOU HEAR  
THAT CALL YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED TO  
STOP SHAVING AND  
SIT ON THE FLOOR  
IN READINESS?



YE...  
YES...I...



UNDER-  
STOOD?

DON'T START  
WITH THAT  
TRIFE THIS  
EARLY ON A  
DAY OFF!



IT...IT'S  
JUST THAT I  
STILL HAD A  
SHAOOW...AND...  
AND...



IF WE'RE REPRIMANDED  
OUR CELL LOSES POINTS

I  
N  
S  
P  
E  
C  
T  
I  
O  
N  
!



NO PLAQUE

GODD CELL (YELLOW).

良

GHOSEN CELL (RED PLASTIC).

優

TV FORBIDDEN EVERY OTHER DAY.

TV ALLOWED FROM 7 TO 9 PM. EVERY DAY.

TV ALLOWED EVERY OTHER DAY.

SHARING RAZORS IS FORBIDDEN SO THEY FIND OUT RIGHT AWAY IF ANYONE WITHOUT THE STICKER IS USING ONE.

STICKER PERMITTING USE OF SHAVER.

128

小屋

NUMBER AND NAME.

CELL LIGHT SWITCH.

LOUDSPEAKER VOLUME.

RED : FOOD DISTRIBUTOR AND HIS HELPER.

THE BLUE PLASTIC MARKER SHOWS WHO'S IN CHARGE OF CARRYING BAG WITH PERSONAL OBJECTS.

PLACES FOR LYING DOWN (I'LL OMIT THE EXPLANATION)

TELEVISION CHANNEL.

FACTORY NUMBER 5	電	電	電	電	電	優 1 B 4
	62	124	134	222	128	
	竹伏	田辺	笠山	花輪	小屋	

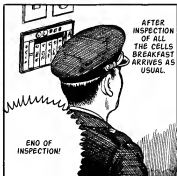
TURNS ROTATE EVERY FRIDAY. ATTACHED WITH MAGNETS.

(1) CLASS OF FOOD AND NUMBER OF RATIONS.



DAYS OFF TO REST  
(SATURDAYS,  
SUNDAYS AND  
HOLIDAYS)

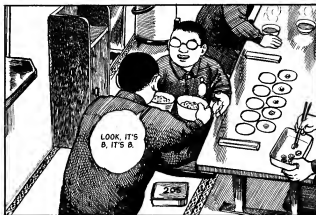
7:40	RISE
7:50	INSPECTION
8:00	BREAKFAST
12:00	LUNCH
16:40	DINNER
18:00	MAKE BEDS
21:00	BED-TIME



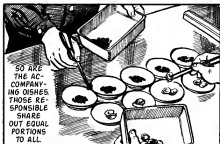
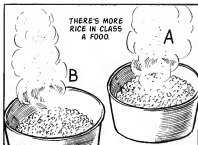
AFTER  
INSPECTION  
OF ALL  
THE CELLS  
BREAKFAST  
ARRIVES AS  
USUAL.



THE ONE WHO  
DISTRIBUTES  
THE FOOD TO  
EACH CELL  
KNOWS WHICH  
IS CLASS A  
OR B BY THE  
COLOR OF THE  
LID.

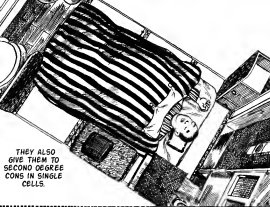




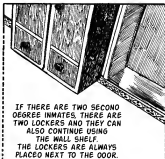








THEY ALSO  
GIVE THEM TO  
SECOND DEGREE  
CONS IN SINGLE  
CELLS.



IF THERE ARE TWO SECOND  
DEGREE INMATES, THERE ARE  
TWO LOCKERS AND THEY CAN  
ALSO CONTINUE USING  
THE WALL SHELF.  
THE LOCKERS ARE ALWAYS  
PLACED NEXT TO THE DOOR.



COME ON, BRING US  
THE COOKIES THAT  
ARE STASHED WITH  
THE SOCKS.

SECOND DEGREE  
CONS HAVE IT  
GOOD. I'D LIKE TO  
BE ONE SOON.



WILL THEY  
GIVE OUT  
'ALFORT'  
COOKIES  
THIS TIME?

THOSE WITH  
CHOCOLATE...



AAAH...  
I'D LOVE  
SOME  
CHOCOLATE.

SECOND  
DEGREE CONS  
HAD A GET-  
TOGETHER  
EVERY  
MONTH, THIRD  
DEGREE  
CONS ONCE  
EVERY OTHER  
MONTH.

WHEN  
THEY GET  
TOGETHER  
THEY WATCH  
A MOVIE  
ON VIDEO  
AND HAVE  
COOKIES AND  
A CANNED  
DRINK.

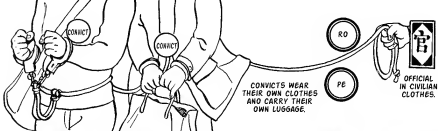


IF I'D DONE  
ANY OF  
THESE THINGS  
PREVIOUSLY  
I'D HAVE BEEN  
SENT TO THE  
PUNISHMENT  
CELL RIGHT  
AWAY.



(\*) NORTH-WESTERN BULLET TRAIN







EVERY TIME I WENT TO  
TOKYO I'D LOOK OUT AT  
THAT SCENERY WITH A  
LIGHT HEART. BUT THIS  
TIME IT WAS DIFFERENT.

THE ONUMA  
NATIONAL  
PARK.



THROUGH THE  
WINDOW YOU  
COULD SEE THE  
KOMAGATAKE  
MOUNTAINS.



CLACK  
THEY TOOK OFF  
THE HANDCUFF  
ON MY RIGHT  
HAND JUST SO I  
COULD EAT.



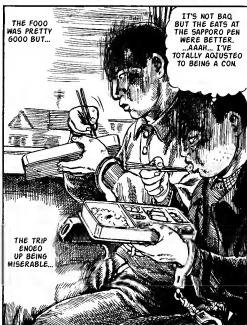
AT LUNCH  
TIME...

ONLY THE  
HAND FOR  
THE CHOP-  
STICKS...



IT WAS  
REALLY  
BAD  
REALLY  
BAD.

FLIST FLIST  
FLIST



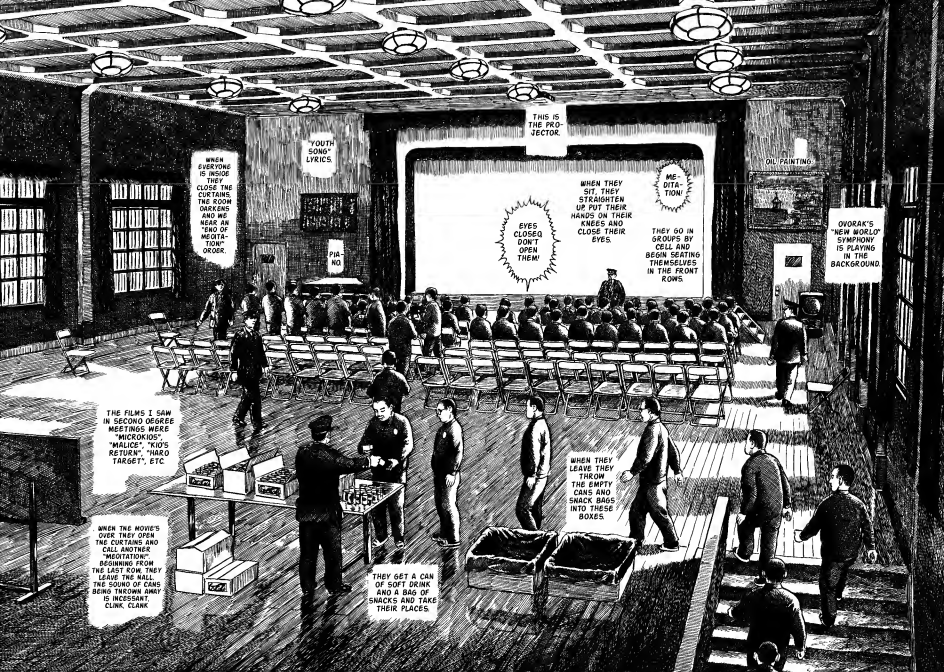
THE FOOD  
WAS PRETTY  
GOOD BUT...

IT'S NOT BAD,  
BUT THE EATS AT  
THE SAPPORO PEN  
WERE BETTER.  
...AAAH... I'VE  
TOTALLY ADJUSTED  
TO BEING A CON.

THE TRIP  
ENDED  
UP BEING  
MISERABLE...







THIS IS  
THE PRO-  
JECTOR.

YOUTH  
SONG\*  
LYRICS.

WHEN  
EVERYONE  
IS INSIDE  
THEY  
CLOSE THE  
CURTAINS.  
THE ROOM  
DARKENS  
AND WE  
HEAR AN  
"END OF  
MEDITA-  
TION"  
ORDER.

PIA-  
NO

EYES  
CLOSED  
DON'T  
OPEN  
THEM!

WHEN THEY  
SIT, THEY  
STRAIGHTEN  
UP, PUT THEIR  
HANDS ON THEIR  
KNEES AND  
CLOSE THEIR  
EYES.

ME-  
DITA-  
TION!

THEY GO IN  
GROUPS BY  
CELL AND  
BEGIN SEATING  
THEMSELVES  
IN THE FRONT  
ROWS.

OIL PAINTING

OVDRAK'S  
"NEW WORLD"  
SYMPHONY  
IS PLAYING  
IN THE  
BACKGROUND.

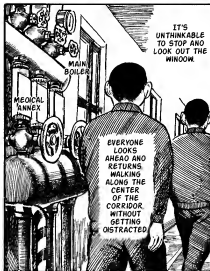
THE FILMS I SAW  
IN SECOND DEGREE  
MEETINGS WERE  
"MICROKIOS",  
"MALICE", "KIO'S  
RETURN", "HARD  
TARGET", ETC.

WHEN THE MOVIE'S  
OVER THEY OPEN  
THE CURTAINS AND  
CALL ANOTHER  
"MEDITATION".  
BEGINNING FROM  
THE LAST ROW, THEY  
LEAVE THE HALL.  
THE SOUND OF CANS  
BEING THROWN AWAY  
IS HEARD: CLINK, CLANK.

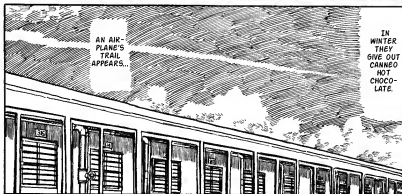
WHEN THEY  
LEAVE THEY  
THROW  
THE EMPTY  
CANS AND  
SNACK BAGS  
INTO THESE  
BOXES.

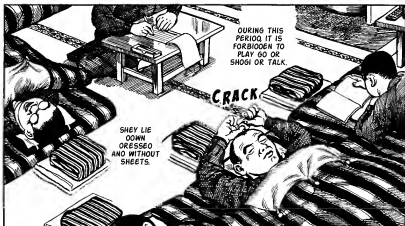
THEY GET A CAN  
OF SOFT DRINK  
AND A BAG OF  
SNACKS AND TAKE  
THEIR PLACES.





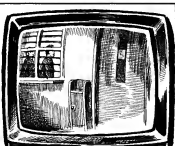




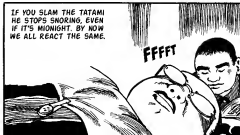




THRU THE WINDOW REFLECTED ON THE TV SCREEN YOU CAN SEE SOMEONE IS ON HIS WAY TO BATHE.



IF YOU SLAM THE TATAMI HE STOPS SNORING, EVEN IF IT'S MIDNIGHT. BY NOW WE ALL REACT THE SAME.

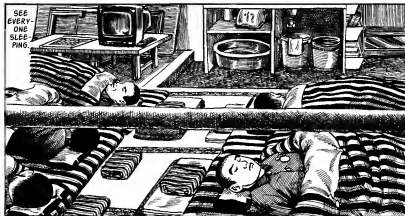
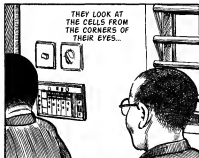


THEIR TOWELS AND BOXES OF SOAP ARE INSPECTED. THEN THEY PROCEED TO THE BATHROOM.



WE GET TO BATHE EVERY THREE DAYS AND SOME-TIMES IT HAPPENS TO FALL ON OUR DAY OFF.





WE SPEND OUR AFTERNOONS QUIETLY ON OUR DAYS OFF.







LAST NIGHT  
WE WENT TO  
BED AT NINE,  
AS USUAL...

AND WE  
GOT UP  
AT 7:40.



"RIDGE OF HIGH  
PRESSURE OVER  
THE PACIFIC OCEAN  
RESULTED IN  
LARGE CROWDS  
BOTH IN THE  
MOUNTAINS AND AT  
THE BEACHES". WE  
END UP OBVIOUS  
TO THAT SORT OF  
NEWS REPORT  
ON THE TV.

"THE  
CHERRY  
TREES HAVE  
BLOSSOMED  
AND THE  
WEATHER IS  
IDEAL FOR  
PICNICKING"  
OR...

THERE ARE NO  
EXERCISES ON  
DAYS OFF, SO  
THEY DON'T  
KICK US OUT  
OF THE PEN.



...AND  
SOME-  
TIMES I  
REMEMBER  
THE FIGS.

WHAT FEELS LIKE  
A LUMP IN MY  
HEART SPREADS  
TO THE REST OF  
MY BODY WHICH  
GETS HEAVIER AND  
HEAVIER AND I CAN  
SLEEP ALL I WANT.



BLUE  
SKY

SUN  
LIGHT

EARTH

WAL-  
LOW  
IN  
MUD

WIND



FORE-  
VER  
OBLI-  
VIOUS  
TO THE  
WORLD.

# Commentary

By Tomofusa Kure

published is due to political disputes and human resentment.

Kazuichi Hanawa's series about life in jail is unique because it is indifferent to these matters everyone else decries. On the other hand, neither does he give the impression that imprisonment has made him repent of his offense. He may have learnt a lesson but he doesn't seem particularly remorseful. Or, perhaps he hasn't learned a lesson, but it looks like he now feels that this penchant for guns is silly. Since this craze was born out of his absorption in his work it was easily cured. In his case having served a sentence has been therapeutic.

What we have here is a fondness for recording details and a rare, sentimental confession which is neither contrite nor comforting. This is something new to writings about jail. Hanawa's drawings are beautiful and elegant from the first line. You can see the relation to the pen drawings of a Kashō Takabatake or Hikozō Itō. He has reproduced the conditions of life in jail with fine pen lines. It is forbidden to make sketches inside so they have been drawn from memory but they are extraordinarily real. His talent as a draftsman is supported by this ability to memorize visually. At the same time, a number of vignettes serve to temper the

realism of these graphic descriptions. These are his caricatural self-portraits and sentimental depictions of himself. They are amusing and you feel his loneliness but it is not the amusement or loneliness of other inmates. This is what Hanawa observes when he looks at himself no matter where he is, inside or outside of jail.

Most prisoners miss their families outside and it is their relationship to them that marks their sense of loneliness or helps them to see the amusing aspects of life in jail. However Hanawa's family does not appear in his works as a counterbalance to his situation. As he has said on other occasions, he was not raised in a happy family environment. Neither has he formed his own family. That is precisely why the amusement and loneliness he feels are absolute and universal. This is a common theme in all of Hanawa's works.

Up to now Kazuichi Hanawa expressed this through works of fiction. The fantastic world of tales from the Middle Ages were his favorite setting. A twist of fate caused him to be locked away for three years in jail, which is a very real place. There too this genius conjured his amusement and loneliness through his works. And that is how this exceptional record of life in prison was achieved.

On December 8th, 1994, Kazuichi Hanawa was arrested by the Hokkaido police for violating the law on firearms. He was caught in the hills trying out some remodeled guns he had acquired after his liking for collecting model guns had increased.

All genial comic book artists have their quirks. There are a few happy artists who lead well rounded lives because their creativity affords them an escape valve, but that is not the case with Kazuichi Hanawa. The singularity of his works caused him to be unconventional as became manifest in his penchant for firearms. In early spring 1995, I appeared before the Sapporo District Court together with Yukihiro Abe as character witnesses in the trial of Kazuichi Hanawa. Abe stated that, from a psychiatric point of view, there was no cause to believe Hanawa would backslide and I, as a critic, declared that his work was internationally acclaimed and as such it would be advisable to treat him with leniency. After all, it was just an artist's eccentricity. It was his first offense and, of course, he had no previous record. I had asked some friends of mine who are lawyers for their opinion beforehand and they were all optimistic and had anticipated a suspended sentence. (Legal term denoting a period during which the convicted person is subject to vigilance and not obliged to enter into prison if he commits no crimes). I believed in that outcome too.

But against all expectation the sentence was severe. He was sentenced to three years in prison without probation. Maybe because circumstances were bad at the time. With the fall of the USSR, Russian military discipline became lax and some of the hard-up troops began to smuggle weapons along the Hokkaido coast. In the city of Sapporo you often saw "Cease Illegal Firearms Ownership" posters. So it looks like they handed down this sentence to set an example.

The defense appealed but was rejected. Right from the beginning Kazuichi Hanawa himself was against appealing and entered prison right away. I sometimes wrote to him while he was in jail. We aren't especially close friends. I'd known him for some time but he was an artist and I was a critic. Nevertheless I wrote because I didn't want to see his talent destroyed.

Letters full of trivial commonplaces bring the most cheer to a prisoner. I knew by experience as I had written such letters as a student. Luckily I wasn't jailed long enough to receive very many but I had written quite a few to those who were locked up. When I got out my friends told me mine were the best letters. I remarked on everyday things like the weather, the books I read, tips

for keeping in good shape, or, sometimes, I even joked. I never wrote telling them to cheer up because the heat of the struggle was gripping all Japan or whathaveyou. Perhaps because these things were a lot less important.

Kazuichi Hanawa answered me honestly from within jail. He wrote to me about authorized books he had read, the weekly menu... he too only wrote about trifles. That reassured me. If he became too agitated in jail he might break down along the way or end up totally unable to adjust to reality once on the outside again. The best thing is for one to do time quietly.

In February 1998 "Ax" began to come out on a monthly basis. This magazine was founded by some writers who had left "Garo" magazine, published by Seirindō. Hanawa began a series in the first issue of "Ax". The first two chapters were stories about the jail where the accused are held before trial, from the third on they were about life in prison itself.

It was funny he should have caught me unawares. He was telling stories furiously about things that were inconsequential. He talked about breakfast, authorized books, wanting to smoke... it was the same as the letters he wrote me. The only difference was that instead of only words, now there were drawings. But this difference is enormous. The letters were simply news about his life while the comic strips are extraordinary records about life in jail.

Up to now various persons have written several types of books about life in prison. Since it is an uncommon experience those who have been through it have wanted to leave a record and those who have not experienced it can find out what it is like through these writings. There are such classic works as Dostoevsky's "The House of the Dead" or Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol" and there are "contemporary entertainment" type books such as Jōji Abe's "Some people never learn inside the walls". For the most part, however, writings that criticize the oppression that exists in prisons and denounce the tyranny of the guards are not very memorable. They may not be in the form of books but you can find articles of this type in leftist magazines or pamphlets. They are invariably tedious. That prisons are oppressive is to be expected and neither is it surprising to learn that guards are harsh. Whether or not that is just, or whether improvements are possible, is debatable but it is their nature to be oppressive places and for guards to behave so. The world may change in any which way but we can't expect jails to be luxury hotels or for guards to act as the servants of the inmates. Nevertheless the fact that so many books denouncing jail conditions are